



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Billington et al.

Art Unit : 3653

Serial No. : 09/543,164

Examiner : J. Shapiro

Filed : April 5, 2000

Title : MONEY ACCEPTANCE METHOD AND APPARATUS

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Copies of the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449 are enclosed. A copy of a communication (search report) from a foreign patent office (European Patent Office) in a counterpart application is also enclosed.

This statement is being filed after a first Office action on the merits, but before receipt of a final Office action or a Notice of Allowance. Reference AA was cited in the enclosed search report from the EPO in a counterpart application, the communication from the EPO being dated April 29, 2003, which is not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The following references, which are also cited in the EPO search report, have previously been cited to or by the U.S. PTO in connection with this application and, therefore, copies are not being provided again:

- (1) EP 0 730 252 A2 (Mars Incorporated)
- (2) U.S. 5,184,708 (Levasseur)
- (3) EP 0 450 927 A1 (Kabushiki Kaihsa Nippon Conlux)
- (4) U.S. 4,499,985 (Schuller)

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Rose Popels

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Rose Popels

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Applicant : Billington et al.
Serial No. : 09/543,164
Filed : April 5, 2000
Page : 2 of 2

Attorney's Docket No.: 07703-
332001 / MEK0197/J.25273 US

During the week of May 26, 2003, the undersigned attorney contacted the Examiner to schedule a teleconference to discuss the pending application. During that initial telephone call, the Examiner mentioned that the undersigned attorney may wish to look at U.S. Patent No. 3,914,889 (Wagner) in connection with this application. The undersigned attorney has reviewed that reference and fails to see the possible relevance of that reference to the pending claims. However, a copy of that reference also is enclosed with this statement.

The undersigned attorney notes that although a teleconference was scheduled with the Examiner for the morning of June 3, 2003, the undersigned attorney was unable to reach the Examiner at the scheduled time or later in the day despite several attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone.

No fee should be due. However, please apply any required charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6/4/03



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